

Message Text

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TAGS: ABLD, UR

SUBJ: FLOOR LOADING OF LENINGRAD OFFICE BUILDING

A/FBO FOR STANGE, EUR/SOV FOR MISCH

1. CONSUL GENERAL HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SOVIET
DIRECTORATE FOR CONSULAR BUILDINGS:

A. "THE DIRECTORATE FOR UTILIZING CONSULATE BUILDINGS HAS RECEIVED
A LETTER FROM LENZHIPROEKT INSTITUTE.

B. "THE INSTITUTE RECALLS IN THE LETTER THAT THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN
SIDES AGREED IN APRIL 1972 THAT THE QUANTITY OF THE PAYLOAD (SPECIFIC
A-
TIONS OF FLOOR LOAD) ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THE BUILDING AT 15
PETRA LAVROVA WAS 488 KG/M2.

C. "THE INSTITUTE POINTS OUT THAT SPECIALISTS WHO HAVE VISITED THE
BUILDING AFTER JULY 1973 (IN CONNECTION WITH SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS)
DISCOVERED THE PRESENCE OF CRACKS IN THE PLASTER, NOT ONLY IN PLACES
WHERE BULKHEADS ADJOIN THE WALLS, WHICH IS USUAL CONSEQUENCE OF
SETTLING, BUT ALSO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LOAD BEARING WALL. THE
APPEARANCE OF CRACKS ON THE WALLS FROM THE SPECIALISTS' POINT OF
VIEW IS EXPLAINED NOT ONLY BY SETTLING, BUT ALSO BY POSSIBLE OVER-
LOADING OF THE FLOOR. THE SPECIALISTS EXPLAIN THE POSSIBILITY OF
EVIDENCE OF OVERLOADING BY THE FACT THAT A LARGE QUANTITY OF BRICKS
WAS LIFTED TO THE UPPER FLOORS OF BUILDING, OF WHICH THEY WERE

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WITNESSES. THE BRICKS WERE INTENDED FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE BY

THE AMERICAN SIDE AFTER THE BUILDING WAS TRANSFERRED TO THEM.

D. "THE INSTITUTE EXPRESSES ITS APPREHENSION ON THE QUESTION THAT THE OVERLOADING OF THE FOURTH FLOOR MAY EXCEED THE AGREED LOADING OF 488 KG/M2, THREATENING THE STRUCTURAL STRENGTH OF THE BUILDING, AND, AS A RESULT, THE SAFETY OF CONSULATE GENERAL PERSONNEL BEING AT THE MOMENT IN THE BUILDING.

E. "REALIZING THAT FULL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONSEQUENCES RESTS WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE, LENZHILPROEKT INSTITUTE, AS THE COMPETENT ORGANIZATION WHICH PERFORMED THE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ON THE BUILDING, STILL REGARDS IT AS ITS DUTY, AS IS EMPHASIZED IN THE LETTER, TO INFORM THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITS APPREHENSION AND, AT THE SAME TIME, EXPRESSES ITS COMPLETE READINESS TO MAKE A QUALIFIED EXAMINATION OF THE BUILDING AND CONDUCT AN ENDURANCE TEST OF ALL CONSTRUCTION ELEMENTS WITH DUE REGARD TO ACTUAL LOADS.

F. "THE DIRECTORATE FOR UTILIZING CONSULATE BUILDINGS BRINGS THE ABOVE TO YOUR ATTENTION AND ASKS THAT YOU INFORM THE DIRECTORATE OF YOUR DECISION CONCERNING THE OFFER MADE BY THE LENZHILPROEKT INSTITUTE."

2. BEGIN LOU. ALTHOUGH CONGEN PERSONNEL HAVE DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS POSSIBILITY OF CRACKS APPEARING IN LOAD BEARING WALLS AS A RESULT OF OVERLOADING FOURTH FLOOR, NO CRACKS HAVE APPEARED. R.N. BARKMAN INSPECTED BUILDING WITH MR ERKIK B TRYDE, AN FBO STRUCTURAL CONSULTANT, ON JUNE 15, 1974, AND FOUND NO CRACKS IN LOAD-BEARING WALLS. SINCE BUILDING WAS ACCEPTED LAST YEAR, A NUMBER OF SOVIET CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL HAVE INSPECTED VARIOUS AREAS OF FIRST THREE FLOORS OF OFFICE BUILDING AND APARTMENTS, NOTING CRACKS IN A NUMBER OF PARTITION WALLS. NO MENTION, HOWEVER, HAS EVER BEEN MADE TO SOVIETS OF POSSIBILITY OF CRACKS IN LOAD BEARING WALLS DUE TO OVERLOADING.

3. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, SIMPLEST REPLY TO MAKE TO SOVIETS IS THAT WE HAVE OBSERVED NO CRACKS IN LOAD BEARING WALLS AND LOADS ON ALL FLOORS ARE WITHIN LIMITS AGREED IN SIGNED 1972 PROJECT DESIGN.

4. HOWEVER, WE REQUEST FBO EXAMINE MR TRYDE'S REPORT TOGETHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH ALL STRUCTURAL DATA ON THE OFFICE BUILDING AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON, AND ADVISE US WHETHER WE CAN ASSERT THAT LOADS ARE WITHIN AGREED LIMITS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF MR TRYDE'S REPORT. GLEYSTEN

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